

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Cheronis, et al.
Serial No: 09/595,720
Date Filed: 6/16/2000
Invention: A Quantitative Assay
Of Low Abundance Molecules

Atty Dkt: 2331/111
Examiner: Cook, Lisa V.
Group No: 1641
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that the attached Response D is being transmitted by facsimile to the Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA, 22313, at 703-308-4242, to the attention of Examiner Lisa V. Cook, on July 11, 2003.


Barbara J. Carter

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE D

In response to the office action of February 11, 2003, please amend the abstract to read as follows:

Abstract

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A method for quantitatively assaying one or more target molecules in a sample uses a nucleic acid aptamer that is specific for each target molecule. A quantitative replicative procedure is used to determine a quantity of aptamer specific for each molecule.

RemarksThe prior art rejections

The rejections, for obviousness, depend on combinations of Griffin with Jayasena et al. in view of various other references. Although Griffin is cited for using aptamers for separation, the office action admits (p. 6, 2nd par.) that Griffin does not teach "using a quantitative replicative procedure to determine a quantity of aptamer specific for each target molecule", as required by various independent claims including, for example, the last element of claim 1. The whole point of the subject invention is in fact to provide a quantitative assay for low abundance molecules. See title, p. 1, and Technical Field, p. 1,